

What if I have an existing hydrant with a below ground drain?



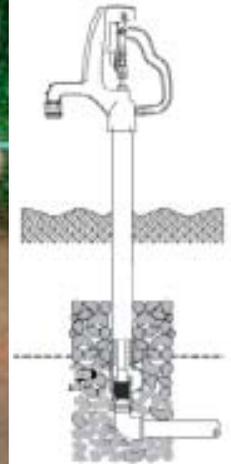
The plumbing inspector will not require that you replace an existing hydrant (installed before September 1, 2001) that has a below ground drain unless a health hazard is created by the hydrant.

However, all hose connections must be protected with an approved hose connection vacuum breaker.



You can tell if a hose connection vacuum breaker is approved by checking for ASSE 1011 or 1052 on the device, and looking for an approved seal.

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State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services

Protect Your Water Yard Hydrants in Wisconsin

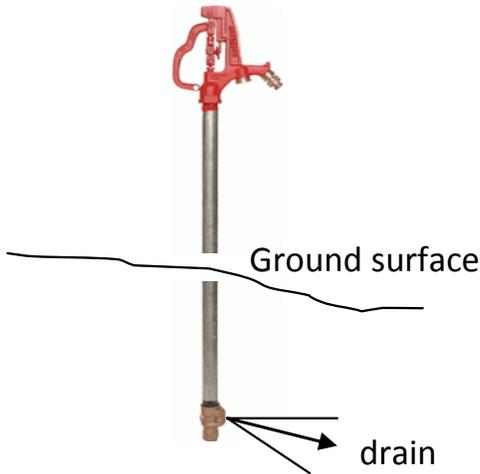


Know what yard hydrants are code compliant in Wisconsin. It can protect your family and save you time, money, and aggravation.

SPS 382.40(8)(e)2. Wisconsin Administrative Code prohibits the installation of a yard hydrant with a below ground discharge. The code reads:

“stop and waste-type control valves may not be installed underground”

This type of hydrant, with a below ground discharge, is popular because of the ease of operation and the relative low cost.



The plunger (control valve) is located below the frost line. When the handle is lifted, water enters the riser and flows through the head. A drain at the same level as the plunger allows water in the riser and the head to drain each time the handle is lowered. This draining action prevents freezing temperatures from causing the water in the hydrant riser or head to expand and burst the device. If a hose connected to the hydrant without a hose connection vacuum breaker were submerged in a barrel, the entire contents of the barrel could be siphoned through the drain port and could contaminate the groundwater or drinking water supply.

What does a code compliant yard hydrant look like?

There’s no “one” answer for a code-compliant yard hydrant. Many manufacturers produce models that are code compliant. When you buy a hydrant, make sure that it has an approved hose connection vacuum breaker and does not include an underground drain.



The department is in no way endorsing these products or any advertising, and is not responsible for any situation which may result from their use.

This type of “sanitary” yard hydrant collects the drain-down water in an enlarged chamber that is evacuated when the handle is in the full open position following the manufacturers’ instructions. Consult the manufacturer’s specifications on the minimum water pressure available before selecting this type of product, which is dependent on pressure to create vacuum.



This type of “sanitary” yard hydrant relies on an electric heated “dip-stick” to keep the hydrant from freezing.

This style of “sanitary” yard hydrant utilizes a “worm” thread and o-ring seals. This type is easily removed and installed for each use in freezing temperatures.



A hose connection vacuum breaker is required on all yard hydrants. Choose a vacuum breaker that is self-draining or loosen the vacuum breaker during the winter to prevent freezing conditions from bursting the hydrant.

For more information, contact a Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Plumbing Consultant at 608-267-9421 or send an e-mail to: DspsSbPlbgTech@wisconsin.gov